

A Temporary Pause on Academic Notifications for Authorized Absences

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Dear faculty colleagues,

I have asked our team members in Student Development to temporarily pause the academic notifications, specifically for personal and sensitive authorized absences, including COVID-19, that alert faculty when a student has been instructed not to attend class in person. However, you will still receive academic notifications for students experiencing a personal and sensitive situation such as bereavement or other various situations.

The shift in isolation times from 10 days to 5 days has changed the processes we rely on at almost every step of COVID-19 protocols right now, including receiving test results from our testing lab. We find ourselves in the position where the 5-day isolation period for many students is either almost, or completely, over by the time faculty are notified. Not surprisingly, I have heard from our staff, faculty and students that this is causing some strain and confusion when it comes to timely academic notifications.

This pause gives us time to rethink the process to better fit our needs and to accommodate changes in testing turnaround and the average isolation time.

We expect this to be a two-week pause on academic notifications for personal and sensitive authorized absences. During this time — and always — we ask that you work directly with students who are experiencing a challenge that requires them to miss class. As we are all dealing with this ever-evolving situation, I appreciate your continued grace and space for our students and their coursework.

If a faculty member would like clarity about a student's status on whether they should be in class, they can contact the Dean of Students Office at deanofstudents@slu.edu. Students can still request such notifications from the Dean of Students Office, as needed, but the team is pausing the more broad notifications during this strategizing time.

Thank you to those who have already offered creative solutions, and to the many people who have worked tirelessly through this process as we worked through move-in testing.

I look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Best,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost